

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 101

By Wirgau

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Guy Wilkinson for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Guy Wilkinson is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and justice in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilkinson has served with distinction for thirty years as the elected district public defender for the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, serving the citizens of Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry counties; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilkinson was appointed to serve as the first district public defender for the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in 1987 during a four-year pilot program. In 1991, Mr. Wilkinson was appointed by the governor to serve an additional year, and he has been re-elected by the citizens to continue as the district public defender since 1992; and

WHEREAS, Guy Wilkinson was born in Garrett, Indiana, and resided in several states prior to earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Memphis in 1970; he obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 1976, and he engaged in private practice from 1977 to 1987; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilkinson served in the United States Army from 1970 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a leader by his peers and colleagues, Guy Wilkinson served two terms as president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, having previously served as vice president, secretary-treasurer, and as a member of a number of notable committees, including the executive committee; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and civic accomplishments include serving as chair of the Benton County Library Board, member of the Tennessee Bar Association, board member of the American Red Cross and the Carey Counseling Center in Paris, and member of the Board of Professional Responsibility, the Foster Care Review Board, and Community Corrections Board for the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Mr. Wilkinson has coached Little League baseball, served as president of the PTA on two occasions, and housed foster children during transitional phases for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Guy Wilkinson is an active member of the Eva Road Church of Christ, where he faithfully serves as a minister; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Phillis, and their four children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Guy Wilkinson has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench and his community alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Guy Wilkinson on his honorable and astute service to the good people of the State of Tennessee as the district public defender for the 24th Judicial District and the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, and salute his unwavering commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.